

§ 1410.64

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for a payment reduction as determined by CCC and in accordance with appropriate vegetative management requirements and stocking rates for the land, grazing frequency, and grazing periods outside the official nesting and broodrearing season only as identified in an approved CRP conservation plan;

(4) Harvesting, grazing, or other commercial use of the forage on the land in response to a drought or other emergency, but only in exchange for a payment reduction as determined by CCC;

(5) Wind turbines on CRP land installed in numbers and locations as determined appropriate by CCC considering the location, size, and other physical characteristics of the land, the extent to which the land contains wildlife and wildlife habitat, and the purposes of CRP, but only in exchange for a payment reduction as determined by CCC;

(6) Spot grazing, if necessary for control of weed infestation, and not to exceed a 30-day period according to an approved conservation plan, but only in exchange for a payment reduction as determined by CCC;

(7) Forestry maintenance such as pruning, thinning, and timber stand improvement on lands converted to forestry use, but only in accordance with a conservation plan, and only in exchange for a payment reduction as determined by CCC; and

(8) The sale of carbon, water quality, or other environmental credits, as determined appropriate by CCC.

[68 FR 24835, May 8, 2003, as amended at 69 FR 26763, May 14, 2004; 75 FR 44071, July 28, 2010]

§ 1410.64 Transition Incentives Program.

(a) To be eligible for the Transition Incentives Program, the retired or retiring owner or operator must, except as specified in paragraph (f) of this section:

(1) Have land that is expiring under an existing CRP contract with a 50 percent or greater interest as provided at § 1410.42 (c);

(2) Sell or lease (under a qualifying nonrevocable lease of at least 5 years in length) expiring CRP land to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who will return some

or all of the land to production using sustainable grazing or crop production methods;

(3) Modify the CRP contract in accordance with § 1410.33(a)(4);

(4) Allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to begin the organic certification process under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 during the last year of the contract, if requested by that farmer or rancher;

(5) Allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to develop a conservation plan for the land; and

(6) Allow the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher to install conservation practices and initiate land improvements that are consistent with the conservation plan during the last year of the contract.

(b) To be eligible for participation in the Transition Incentives Program, the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers must:

(1) Certify that they meet the definition in § 1410.2 of either a beginning farmer or rancher or a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher;

(2) Obtain and implement a conservation plan; and

(3) Implement sustainable grazing or crop production in compliance with the conservation plan by the time specified in the plan.

(c) Eligible beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers will be eligible immediately to reenroll partial field conservation practices in CRP, in accordance with the conservation plan and the provisions of this part, following the expiration of the CRP contract of the qualified retired or retiring owner or operator, provided that the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher has control of the property and meets all other qualifying conditions of CRP, as specified in this part.

(d) Eligible beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers will be eligible to enroll land in the Conservation Stewardship Program or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, as specified in parts 1470 and 1466 of this chapter, provided that their offer to enroll otherwise meets all program conditions, and provided that the CRP

contract of the retired or retiring owner or operator has expired and the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher has sufficient control of the property.

(e) As an incentive for selling or leasing land to a beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who is not a family member, CCC will pay 2 years of additional CRP annual rental payments at the same contract rate to a retired or retiring owner or operator. The retired or retiring owner or operator must certify that the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is not a family member.

(f) Subject to all other program conditions, incentive payments may be allowed for contracts that have already expired if:

(1) The contract expired on or after June 18, 2008, and contract modification began on or before September 30, 2010;

(2) The transfer to the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher will occur after the contract modification; and

(3) All other program conditions are otherwise met.

(g) Eligible retired or retiring owner or operator and eligible beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher must agree to be jointly and severally responsible, if the participant has a share of the payment greater than zero, with the other Transition Incentive Program agreement participants in compliance with the provisions of such Transition Incentive Program agreement and the provisions of this part and for any payment adjustments that may be required for violations of any of the terms or conditions of the Transition Incentive Program agreement and this part.

[75 FR 27169, May 14, 2010]

PART 1412—DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM AND AVERAGE CROP REVENUE ELECTION PROGRAM FOR THE 2008 AND SUBSEQUENT CROP YEARS

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